

2 Alcohol & Non-Alcoholic Beverage Use Prior to and During Call Duty

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2.1 Purpose and Expected Results

Because ethyl alcohol is an intoxicant and depressant, no Squad member will participate in patient care or other call activity while under the influence of alcohol. This procedure provides a self-test to objectively determine sobriety without reference to breath or blood testing means. By providing guidance to Squad members with respect to the use of ethyl alcohol prior to participation in a call, impaired judgment or slowed reflex should be avoided.

Because some non-alcoholic drinks have the same aroma as alcoholic drinks, use of these drinks directly before and during squad duty should be avoided or cautioned. The presence of an alcohol aroma on a member's breath may cause a decrease in a patient's confidence and thereby decreasing effectiveness of patient care.

2.2 Circumstances of Applicability

This procedure applies whenever a Squad member anticipates Squad duty.

It is also applicable should a Squad member receive an unanticipated call,

2.3 Requisites

None.

2.4 Procedure Description

No alcoholic beverage shall be consumed within four hours prior to participating in a Squad call.

Ethyl alcohol is metabolized at varying rates. This procedure proscribes a conservative time duration presuming light or moderate alcohol use. Should heavy use be encountered, a longer time duration such as the eight hours proscribed by FAA regulation should be observed.

Caution should be used when consuming 'aromatic' non-alcoholic beverages right before and during Squad Duty to avoid alcohol type breath. If non-alcoholic beverages are consumed before and during squad duty, care must be taken to cover up or mask this aroma.